a. providing a wet sheet from a slurry containing about 0.5 to 20 % by weight of a fibrous mixture dispersed in water, said fibrous mixture comprising about 90 to 10 % by weight of thermoplastic fibers that are about 7 to 30 mm long and as fine as about 0.1 to 0.8 d mixed with about 10 to 90 % by weight of pulp fibers that are about 2 to 7 mm long;

b. placing said wet sheet on a support;

c. subjecting said wet sheet to high velocity water jet streams of about 50 to 200 kgf/cm^2 to effect mechanically entangling said fibrous mixture and to obtain a nonwoven fabric; and

d. passing said nonwoven fabric between a pair of embossing rolls to produce a plurality of protuberances in said nonwoven fabric.

7. (Amended) A method according to Claim 4, wherein only one of the pair of embossing rolls is formed on a peripheral surface thereof with a plurality of projections having conical or pyramidal shapes.

Please add new claims 8 and 9 as follows:

--8. (New) A method according to Claim 4, further comprising forming the nonwoven sheet with a plurality of apertures.--

--9. (New) A method according to Claim 4, wherein the plurality of protuberances formed in the nonwoven fabric comprise discrete protuberances that are arranged in a two dimensional pattern across the nonwoven fabric.--